Commission critic Lane announces he will sue UCLA Prof. Liebeler

By Roz Davis
DB Staff Writer

Warren Commission critic Mark Lane has announced that he will sue Law Prof. Wesley Liebeler for slander.

Lane stated that Oct. 7, while he (Lane) was addressing the UCLA student body, Liebeler made slanderous remarks about Lane during a television news conference.

Lane said that the law suit will give Liebeler a chance to argue the validity of the Warren Commission in court. Both men have agreed to a formal debate on the Commission report at UCLA on Jan. 25, 1967.

Several meetings

Liebeler, one of the 14 assistant counsels on the Warren Commission, and Lane have had several confrontations about the Warren Commission on television forum programs and briefly exchanged comments and criticisms at last Friday's Speaker's Program Coffee Hour.

Liebeler has issued this statement regarding the law suit: "Last Friday I challenged Mark Lane to debate in open forum before the students of UCLA the issues he sees raised by the Warren Report. He refused. I was then invited to debate Lane at Stanford. I accepted. He refused. I am informed that Lane stated that he had been requested by the UCLA Speaker's Program not to debate, since they wanted to arrange an exclusive meeting between us in January. Lane was never requested to grant an exclusive.

Suing?

"He then said he did not want to debate because he was suing me, presumably for slander.

"Lane refuses to debate these issues now. It remains to be seen whether he will debate them in January. I think everyone who listens to him should keep that in mind. I predict that he will not sue me. He knows that what I have said is true. He is afraid to put it to the test in open debate. He will also be afraid to put the issue to a test in open court."

Both Lane and Liebeler will be expressing their views more fully on television in the near future. Lane will be on Mort Sahl's show tonight, and Liebeler is scheduled to appear on the Louis Lomax show a week from Sunday.

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